

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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R 170957Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2376

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

FAA BRUSSELS

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DEPT PASS COMMERCE FOR COHEN: EXIMBANK FOR YOUNG

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JO

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - ALIA ROYAL JORDANIAN AIRLINES WIDEBODIED EQUIPMENT PLANS: BOEING 747-200B DEMONSTRATION

REF: BEIRUT 14853; AMMAN 7240, 301

1. IN CONNECTION BOEING 747-200B FLIGHT AND STATIC DEMONSTRATION AMMAN DEC. 11 THROUGH DEC. 13, RCAA DISCUSSED LATEST ASPECTS ALIA WIDEBODIED ACQUISITION PLANS WITH CHAIRMAN AL GHANDOUR AND DIRECTOR OF PLANNING NISAR ARYNE. PRINCIPAL POINTS EMERGING WERE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ALIA SELECTION COMMITTEE STUDY, COORDINATED BY ARYNE, HAS BEEN DELAYED AND WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL JANUARY 31;

(B) AS A RESULT THIS DELAY AND GHANDOUR'S PREOCCUPATION FINANCING AND DELIVERY, EX-GREECE MATTERS RELATED TO PLANNED CONFIDENTIAL

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ACQUISITION TWO USED OLYMPIC BOEING 707-384C'S, TYPE-

SELECTION DECISION WIDEBODED AIRCRAFT ORIGINALLY EXPECTED FOR JAN. 20 NOW DELAYED TO LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH.

(C) GHANDOUR INDICATES OFFERS ALL THREE US AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE, PARTICULARLY PRICE CONCESSIONS ON BOEING 747SP, BUT HE HOLDS PERSONAL VIEW LOCKHEED-CALIFORNIA L-1011-250 TRISTAR APPEARS TO BEST MEET ALIA'S PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS.

(D) ARYNE PARTICULARLY OPTIMISTIC ON ALIA CARGO GROWTH AND THUS PERSONALLY FAVORS BOEING 747-200B WITH AFT MAIN-DECK CARGO DOOR.

(E) KING HUSSEIN PILOTED 747-200B DEMONSTRATOR AMMAN-AQABA-AMMAN JAN. 12 BUT, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, DID NOT PARTICIPATE L-1011 DEMONSTRATION DEC. 11, BUTTRESSING BELIEF BY MANY MEMBERS OF AIRLINE (INCLUDING ARYNE) THAT HM FAVORS BOEING 747, EITHER 200B OR SP. ARYNE INDICATES ALIA WIDEBODED IN-SERVICE DATES HAVE BEEN ADVANCED IN EMERGING FLEET PLAN, WITH TWO WIDEBODED AIRCRAFT IN SERVICE SPRING 1977; THREE SPRING 1979; FOUR SPRING 1981; FIVE SPRING 1983.

2. BOEING 747-200B DEMONSTRATOR, IN AIR CANADA COLORS, FLEW NON-STOP SEATTLE-AMMAN (8,400 STATUTE MILES) IN APPROXIMATELY 14 HOURS WITH 20,000 LB. PAYLOAD, SETTING NEW LONG-DISTANCE RECORD FOR COMMERCIAL JET TRANSPORTS. SENIOR BOEING OFFICIAL ON BOARD WAS "TEX" BOULLIOUN, BOEING COMMERCIAL AIRPLANE COMPANY PRESIDENT, AND PILOT IN COMMAND WAS JACK WADDELL. AMBASSADOR PICKERING PARTICIPATED IN FLIGHT DEMO JAN. 13.

GODLEY

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